

Bulletin

January 20, 1947

Tebet 28, 5707

Golden Anniversary Gift For Liturgical Music

It has been announced by Cantor David J. Puttermann that the Synagogue is the proud recipient of a five thousand dollar gift for the publication of Jewish liturgical music. This magnificent gesture has just been made by Mr. Joseph H. Cohen and by his son, Isadore M. Cohen, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Synagogue. It is in gratitude for the golden wedding anniversary of Joseph H. and Rose B. Cohen, to whom the volume of music will be dedicated.

The music to be contained in the book will be that which has been written at Cantor Puttermann's request for the Park Avenue Synagogue's annual Sabbath Eve Musical Festivals. Among the renowned contemporary composers, both Jews and non-Jews alike, who have written music for these festivals and whose works will be included in the anthology are Leonard Bernstein, A. W. Binder, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Paul Dessau, David Diamond, Alexandre Gretchaninoff, Roy Harris, Frederick Jacobi, Ernest Levy, Darius Milhaud, William Grant Still, Alexandre Tansman, Kurt Weill, Jacob Weinberg, and others of equal renown.

The musical arrangements are for cantor, mixed choir, and organ. By and large they are written in a modern idiom. Cantor Puttermann indicated that he encouraged the composers to express their own individual feelings in respect to the various texts from the Sabbath liturgy which they were setting to music.

There has long been a demand from all over the nation for a revitalized synagogue music, and the forthcoming volume will go a long way toward meeting that need.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SABBATH EVE

Friday, January 24th, 8:30 o'clock

Rabbi Kertzer

will preach on

"A Blueprint for American Judaism"

SABBATH MORNING

Saturday, January 25th, 10:00 a.m.

Junior Congregation Service
at 10:30 a.m.

Victor Reisel Speaks on Labor at Sabbath Service

Unionism Featured at Adult Education Forum

On January 31st, Victor Reisel, able columnist and editor will deliver the third lecture for the Institute of Jewish Problems. His talk will be on one of the more gripping problems of today, "Whither Unionism?"

Parents Meet Jan. 29

A distinguished and important program has been prepared for the Parents' Association of the Park Avenue Synagogue Religious Schools when it meets on Wednesday evening, January 29th at 8:30 p.m. at the Synagogue.

Dr. Alexander Dushkin, Executive Director of the Jewish Education Committee of New York, will speak on "The Old and New in Jewish Education." Dr. Dushkin received his Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1918. He has been Secretary

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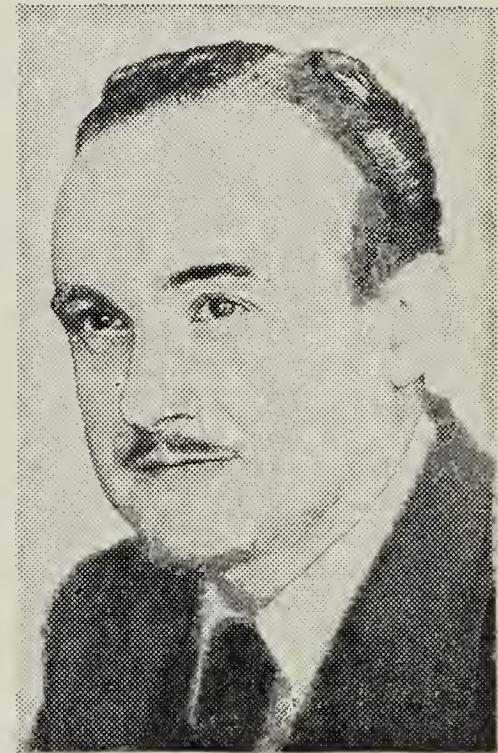
CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

The first Annual Congregational Dinner in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Park Avenue Synagogue will take place on Sunday evening, February 9, 1947, at 7 o'clock in the Vestry Room of the Synagogue. "It has been felt for many years," stated Mr. Harold Levin, chairman of the Dinner Committee, "that the spirit of good fellowship in the congregation ought to be symbolized in something like a dinner for the entire membership." The cost of subscription, which will be announced shortly, will be exceedingly reasonable.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place immediately following the Congregational Dinner at 9:15 P.M. on Sunday, February 9th, in the Vestry Room.

All members of the Synagogue are urged to attend. Further details about this dual event will be mailed to the members in the near future.

Mr. Reisel brings to his task a first hand experience with the labor movement that is unique in its background and rich



VICTOR REISEL

in the depths of its knowledge. The challenging theme of Mr. Reisel's topic is particularly appropriate to members of the congregation, for today more than ever is there the need for a voice which

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"Whither Unionism?"

SABBATH MORNING

Saturday, February 1st, 10:00 a.m.

Junior Congregation Service
at 10:30 a.m.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

BULLETIN

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Contributors

VOL. I

No. 10

**From the Desk of
Rabbi Steinberg****THE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS:
An Appraisal**

What is one to think of the recently adjourned World Zionist Congress? Meeting as it did in one of the gravest crises in the history of the Jewish people, did it deal wisely with the issues before it?

Only time, the passage of years, perhaps of decades, can answer that question with finality. But to me it appears that the Congress quite consistently took the only line open to it. And I who say this have never been a partisan in my Zionist activities and so have no personal or factional axe to grind.

Issue I: The London Conference

The Congress decided not to attend the London Conference "under existing circumstances." In other words it voted to abstain from negotiations with the British so long as the latter use these negotiations as a screen for doing nothing, but to enter into negotiations so soon as the British make some offer worthy of discussion.

How could the Congress have resolved otherwise? What could be the sense of going to a Conference in London at which, it was certain in advance, every rightful Jewish demand would be negated? What except to conceal from the eyes of the world the unconscionable tactic of delay and evasion now being employed by Britain? Or is anyone so naive as to suppose that the British do not know the Jewish case or can be persuaded by some fresh and eloquent statement of it? After all, British officialdom is thor-

oughly conversant with every article in the Jewish plea. Why then a formal dress-up Conference? Besides, as was pointed out to the Zionist Congress, "public conferences never succeed unless preliminary agreements are reached in prior informal conversations." No such agreements have been reached, no such acceptable agreement has even so much as been broached by the British government.

Issue II: Partition

By the same token, the Congress debated at length, but did not determine, the issue of partition. So far, the discussion of partition has been pretty much a monologue within the Zionist world. Britain has given no official indications of any positive interest in the proposal, and our American government has gone no further than to state that the idea is under consideration among Jews and that America, though not committed, would probably not be adverse to it. Under these circumstances, the Congress could not endorse partition without compromising itself, before it had any evidence that such a compromise would be to any avail. Nor could it reject partition, since that may prove the only way out in the end. Indeed, it is an open secret into which the whole world has been admitted that Britain need only offer some tolerable form of partition to rewin the collaboration of the world's Zionists.

Issue III: The Leadership of Weizmann

Nor, as I see it, could the Congress re-elect Chaim Weizmann to leadership. I, for one, have the deepest admiration and respect for Dr. Weizmann. His place in history as a great Jew and great benefactor of his people seems to me to be forever secure. He merits every conceivable honor at our hands — except the presidency of the World Zionist Organization. For, he represents a policy which has failed. He stands for cooperation *at all odds* with the British, and the British are transparently unwilling to cooperate with us. Great as are his personal talents and dedication to the Zionist cause, acceptable as he may be to British officialdom, he has in recent years won not a single concession from the British government, not a single relaxation of immigration bans or of land control regulations. Others may do no better in the future than he has done in the past, but that remains to be seen and is not to be assumed.

* * *

It would appear that clashes of personality as well as of principle had their share in determining Zionist policy at Basle. Deplorable as that fact may be, it is apparently one of life's unhappy unavoidableities. There is no movement

or cause whose destiny is not affected to some extent by the interplay of personalities. Every effort should be made to neutralize this troublesome factor in Zionist affairs today. Its presence on the scene should, however, not be permitted to divert our attention from the larger and more abiding issues.

Issue IV: Attitude Toward Britain

The basic decision made by the Congress undercutting all others, including that to retire Dr. Weizmann, concerned a shift in Zionist orientation toward Britain. This shift has been so concisely stated in an article in the current *Reconstructionist* that I can do no better than quote from that source:

"Hitherto Zionist diplomacy assumed a fundamental community of interest between Great Britain and the Jewish people . . . and although many acts of successive British governments belied that assumption, Zionism maintained a pro-British orientation and placed confidence in the ultimate good faith of the British people and its government.

"But the repeated betrayals of the Jewish cause by successive governments . . . have finally convinced the Zionist Organization that the British government has no intention to fulfill its obligations to the Jewish people under the Mandate. Instead, Great Britain seems determined to frustrate the establishment of the Jewish National Home because that would interfere with its plans to create a strong pan-Arab movement as a political and economic ally in its struggle to maintain its empire.

"Instead of relying on British good faith, Zionists are now placing their reliance on pressure from the United States and on the resistance movement in *Eretz Israel*. They hope thereby to convince the British public of the infeasibility of any effort to liquidate the *Yishuv* or to prevent continued Jewish immigration."

Is there any other course which the Zionist world could adopt except to turn away from Britain as Britain has turned away from the Jews and its commitments to them? The old methods of appeasement of Britain have failed. What choice have the Jews except that of opposition?

It is a regrettable choice, but then the responsibility for it is England's, not ours. Let England show the first signs of decency in its handling of Palestine and a return to the old relationship will almost certainly ensue.

Issue V: Resistance

As for the problem of resistance in Palestine, the Congress again travelled the only avenues open to it. It repudiated the terrorism of the Sternists and *Irgun*, but supported the Resistance Movement

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School Highlights

by Alma D. Kaplan

Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer, director of the School Library, operated under the auspices of the Parents' Association, urges members of the congregation to donate all the suitable books that can be spared to the library.

Several gifts including a cash grant from the "Krinsky Fund" have been applied toward the purchase of furnishings for the new Club Room located in the Vestry. In addition to furnishings, already received, a pool table has been presented by Mr. Sanford Cohen and painting and wallpapering are being donated by Mr. Milton Selig, a member of the school Board. The Clubroom as yet is not completed and further contributions are desired which may be discussed with Rabbi Kertzer.

Rabbi Kertzer has announced that enrollment approaching capacity of two hundred fifty has almost been reached in our Sunday School. For the first time in the history of the school a rapid advance class has been formed for the purpose of affording to those students interested in Jewish History and events a more intensive course. Mr. Norman Schamin will supervise this work, to be composed of 12 and 13 year olds.

The Parents Association has announced through its chairman Mrs. Harriet Howe that it will hold a card party at the Synagogue on Sunday evening, April 20th at 8 P.M. Tickets will be \$1 and there will be prizes and refreshments. Mrs. I. E. Gevirtz is chairman.

Parents Meet

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to the Board of Education of the Zionist Commission, Superintendent of Jewish Schools for the Palestinian Government, a member of the Board of Jewish Education of Chicago, Professor of Education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Headmaster of the University Secondary Schools of the Hebrew University.

Rabbi Milton Steinberg, who has long known Dr. Dushkin, has promised to be present at this meeting. He will comment on Dr. Dushkin's talk and will initiate the discussion to follow.

The teachers of both the Sunday and Hebrew Schools will be present and will talk with the parents during the Social Hour and refreshment period which will follow the meeting. It is hoped that all parents whose children attend our schools will avail themselves of the opportunity to hear so well-informed a speaker.

From the Desk of Rabbi Steinberg

(Continued from page 2)

of the *Haganah* and pledged its fullest support to so-called illegal immigration which is of course not illegal at all, the illegalism being supplied by British policy.

Conclusion

There has been, no doubt, considerable disappointment with the Congress. But it has been the disappointment of people who were hoping against hope that the Congress might come up with some miraculous device which would convert the perverse Britishers to compassion and make possible an instantaneous and altogether tranquil solution of the Palestinian problem. It is only natural that such hopes should have been cherished. It is only natural also that they shall not have been realized.

Statesmanship has been defined as the science of the possible in human affairs. By that definition the Congress exhibited, I am convinced, statesmanship in a high form. It adopted possible courses, indeed the only courses possible to our people in its present hour of dreadful crisis.

—MILTON STEINBERG

Reisel Speaks at Service

(Continued from page 1)

speaks with his authority. It is to be expected that on January 24th there will be presented to the congregation a provocative talk by a man who has examined the problem of unionism in its minutest detail.

Americans today have indicated by their returning a Republican majority to Washington that the problem of labor has come to the immediate fore as a pressing issue. Interpretations of this victory have been many and varied. All agree, however, that a mandate has been given to a party which in the past decade has not exactly distinguished itself with a program friendly to unionism. How that mandate will be handled and labor's reaction to the new voice from Washington should prove to be a most fruitful topic for discussion.

Mr. Reisel's interpretations of the contemporary American labor scene, based as they are on a deep-seated friendship for the cause of the worker should provoke one of the more stimulating discussions of the current lecture series. After the lecture an *Oneg Shabat* will be held in the vestry rooms. Mr. Reisel will be there in the role of discussion leader to defend or further expound his views. Rabbi Kertzer will preside and all are invited to attend. Tea will be served.

Sisterhood Speaks

by Dorothy Cross

The next meeting of the Sisterhood will be held on Tuesday afternoon, January 28th, at 1:30 P.M. in the synagogue vestry. It is another in the series being sponsored by the organization this year around the general topic of the Jewish Community and its place in the broader areas of communal endeavor. The speaker of the afternoon will be Mr. Henry Atkinson, whose subject will be "The Future of Minorities." Mr. Atkinson has long been associated with groups which are closely affiliated with the interfaith and interracial problems of democratic living. He is at present chairman of the Christian Council for Palestine.

Mr. Atkinson has held the post of General Secretary of the Church Peace Union; he is also a former Professor of Sociology at the Atlanta (Ga.) Seminary, and former co-chairman of the Church Council on Intolerance. He has spoken frequently before both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences on the subject of minority problems.

Mr. Atkinson will make a general statement in his appearance before the Sisterhood, and it is expected that he will leave a considerable portion of the period allotted to him for general questions and discussion from the floor.

Museum Project

The Sisterhood has undertaken a project of assistance to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in connection with its seventy-fifth anniversary. It seems entirely proper for this group of community-minded women, residing in the neighborhood of the museum, to undertake such a program as a part of their service to the general community. The Museum has always been a source of pride to all of New York, and its Diamond Jubilee calls for special celebration and interest on the part of the entire city. All members of the Synagogue have been circularized with a beautiful brochure of the work of the Museum and how plans are being made for an expanded program. The chairman of this drive for the Sisterhood is Mrs. Jacob Mark, 175 Riverside Drive.

In a previous issue of the BULLETIN the name of Mrs. Louis Greenstein was omitted from an article on the work of the Sisterhood in connection with JDC-SOS. Both the editors of BULLETIN and the members of the Sisterhood want to call attention to the fact that Mrs. Greenstein has been one of the most effective workers and organizers in the Sisterhood program of relief and welfare to groups here at home and abroad.

BAR MITZVAH

It is with pleasure that we note the Bar Mitzvah of William Horwitt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan G. Horwitt, on Saturday morning, January 11th; and of Walter Levins, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Levins, on Saturday morning, February 1st.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Arustein on the Bas Mitzvah of their daughter, Lynn, on Saturday morning, January 25th.

BIRTHS

Best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Harry Altmark on the birth of their grandson, son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Uhman.

ENGAGEMENTS

The Synagogue announces with pleasure the engagement of Leslie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Cohen to Ruth Warren.

MARRIAGES

Felicitations to Hilda Ullman Kosofsky, who was married on January 19th to Leon Kosofsky. Mrs. Kosofsky is the teacher of Class 3Y of the Religious School.

DEATHS

We announce with regret the passing of Henry Freirich, brother of Mrs. Ida Daub and Mrs. Bella Rose; of Nettie Neuberg, wife of Henry Neuberg; and of Samuel Morse, brother of Miss Estelle Morse.

**Puttermann Named
Music Director**

Rabbi Albert I. Gordon, newly appointed Executive Director of the United Synagogue of America, has invited Cantor David J. Puttermann to become the director of the Department of Music for the United Synagogue of America. The Board of Trustees of the Park Avenue Synagogue has approved the appointment. Through this department Cantor Puttermann hopes to be able to establish standards for the American Cantorate; to stimulate an interest in raising the standards of synagogue music; and eventually to foster and encourage the establishment of a conservatory or institute for the training of cantors.

WILL YOU ATTEND?

Sunday, Jan. 26th, 8:30 p.m.—Junior League Meeting.

Tuesday, Jan. 28th, 1:30 p.m.—Sisterhood Meeting, Synagogue vestry.

Wednesday, Jan. 29th, 8:30 p.m.—Parents Teachers' Meeting, Synagogue vestry.

Delegate Reports**On Zionist Congress**

On Friday evening, January 10th, Mrs. Joseph Hamerman, one of our congregants, presented a most interesting and informative personal report on the Twenty-Second World Zionist Congress which met in Basle, Switzerland, on December 9, 1946. Because of the war this was the first gathering in seven years.

As the Congress met, it was faced with three important issues: 1. The participation of the Jewish Agency in the forthcoming London Conference on Palestine; 2. The future leadership of the World Zionist Organization; 3. The official Zionist position on Resistance and Terrorism.

There were varying schools of thought, Mrs. Hamerman reported. Chaim Weizmann, a long time the world leader of Zionism, was in favor of an unconditional participation in the London Conference. Opposing Weizmann was Rabbi Silver, who insisted that there be no participation except for setting up a Jewish State in all of Palestine, undiminished and undivided, and Ben Gurion who felt that participation might be considered if some sort of Jewish plan be made the basis for discussion.

After eight days of debate and a twenty-four hour continuous session, the Congress voted 171 to 154 against participation.

But the door was left open for participation if and when certain conditions are met by Great Britain. However, as the question of leadership was also involved in determining the policy of the first issue, Dr. Weizmann, whose position was not supported, could no longer assume leadership, and so withdrew as a candidate for President. The Congress voted no President, and Ben Gurion was made Chairman of the Executive.

On the question of terrorism there was unanimous denunciation of the undisciplined groups whose immoral and anarchic acts hurt the Zionist cause. However, the Hagana (the disciplined peoples' organization for defense, resistance, and aid to immigration) was viewed as a tragic necessity and was supported wholeheartedly.

"We can only hope," said the speaker, "that the action taken will lead to the correct course, bringing peace and a surcease to our Jewish suffering. The World Zionist Congress has affirmed our belief that this can be accomplished only through the unbreakable unity and unassailable faith in the Zionist movement."

Following the service, Mrs. Hamerman elaborated further, in response to questions, at the *Oneg Shabat* in the Vestry.

Junior League Jottings

The second symposium of the current season conducted by the Junior League was held on Sunday evening, January 12th in the vestry. The speaker, Mr. Abraham Citron, of the American Jewish Congress' Committee on Community Interrelations, conducted a program to help combat anti-Semitic on-the-spot remarks. Various illustrative situations were dramatized by Jo Levy, Morty Drosin, Louis Helier, Ed Kohn, and Lewis Zeller, to acquaint the audience with possible comments and how they may be handled. About 150 members of the Junior League and their friends attended.

The Misses Hortense Levy and Isabel Rosen, co-chairmen of the Cocktail Party to be held Sunday afternoon, February 9th at Delmonico's for the benefit of the United Jewish Appeal, have announced that letters were sent to members of the Congregation inviting their contributions to the affair, in order to reach the national campaign quota. Tickets for the dance which are \$2 per person may be purchased now.

Musical Service Feb. 7

The Park Avenue Synagogue will observe its first Jewish Musical Festival, on Friday evening, February 7th, as part of National Jewish Music Week, it was announced by Cantor Puttermann. A special musical service is being planned with representative synagogue music from all over the world. Frederick Jacobi, famous American composer, will be the guest preacher that evening.

Details of this music festival will be printed in the next issue of BULLETIN.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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